

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further people that are going to be speaking, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6159.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), amended by Public Law 108-375, and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy:

Ms. KILPATRICK, Michigan.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SRI LANKA CONFLICT SURGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, we are on the verge of a full-scale war in Sri Lanka. The 2002 cease-fire agreement and the peace process in Sri Lanka between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE, is essentially nonexistent. The violence is escalating and thousands of Sri Lankan civilians are suffering.

These past few months have resulted in nearly 2,000 deaths with more than 200,000 displaced persons. The fighting has also blocked access to essential supplies for many parts of the northeastern province, cutting off more than 60,000 Sinhalese, Muslims and Tamils from water.

This sinister cycle of war, cease-fire and then more war is not effective. Each side blames the other side and the situation is only getting worse.

Hostilities must end and violence must not be the means for resolving ethnic conflict. All efforts must be focused on restoring and sustaining peace, and both parties must swallow their pride for the sake of their Nation.

Norway and the co-chairs of the Tokyo Donors' Conference, which includes the United States, have called for a return to unconditional negotia-

tions in October. This return to the negotiating table is critical, and I am fully supportive of this effort. Both parties must guarantee the safety of its citizens, aid workers and peace monitors. Meanwhile, the LTTE must denounce terrorism as a means to its political aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe the majority of people in Sri Lanka would be in favor of a democratic solution to the conflict. The political challenges cannot be resolved through war, and that is clear.

In June, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Richard Boucher stated "though we reject the methods that the Tamil Tigers have used, there are legitimate issues raised by the Tamil community and they have a legitimate desire to control their own lives, to rule their own destinies, and to govern themselves in their homeland."

I echo this sentiment and support a solution that retains Sri Lanka's unity. Yet, it should grant a level of autonomy to ethnic minorities like the Tamils. We have seen very similar successful situations throughout the world. Places like Quebec in Canada, Wales and Scotland in Great Britain are all part of their Federal Nations but have significant autonomy.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in Sri Lanka is certainly not getting any better. As we have seen over the past few months, international monitors are leaving the country, scared for their well-being. The United Nations has threatened to revoke its international aid. If this pattern of violence continues without pursuit of a political solution, the international community may completely rescind its support.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge both sides to recommit to the process of sustaining peace in Sri Lanka. The devastating effect this is having on the civilian population of the country is not just. It is up to both parties to find a way to ensure the safety and security of all the people of Sri Lanka.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OSBORNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO GOLF LEGEND BYRON NELSON

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order and address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today north Texas and indeed the country lost a great, great man, the legendary golfer and humanitarian Byron Nelson. He passed away at the age of 94 at his home in Roanoke, Texas, where he lived with his wife Peggy on 11 Straight Lane, a road that was named for his year of 1945 when he won 11 straight golf tournaments.

Like all Americans, I am saddened by the news of the death of Byron Nelson. He was indeed the best of men and he was a gentleman to all. His strength of character and generosity to others set him apart.

Mr. Nelson's accomplishment as a professional golfer are as impressive as his golf swing. There is a reason why he is the only PGA professional golfer that has a PGA tour named in his honor, the EDS Byron Nelson Championship.

Mr. Nelson won 54 career victories, including winning two Masters, two PGA championships and the U.S. Open in 1939. He is one of only two golfers to be named Male Athlete of the Year twice by the Associated Press, and the World Golf Hall of Fame honored Mr. Byron Nelson in 2004 by featuring an exhibit entitled, "Byron Nelson: A Champion . . . A Gentleman."

While Lord Byron has obtained the status as a world class athlete, it is his humanitarian efforts that are truly first class, Mr. Speaker. He is a champion for the underprivileged and has given his time, his talents and his funds to make this a better world for those who are not as well off.

Byron Nelson and the EDS Byron Nelson Championship have raised well over \$100 million for the Salesmanship Club Youth and Family Centers, a non-profit agency that provides education and mental health services for more than 2,700 children and their families in the greater Dallas area.

Additionally, the Byron and Louise Nelson Golf Endowment Fund has provided over \$1.5 million in endowment funds to Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas.

Another example of his service is his dedication to the Metroport Meals on Wheels which provides daily, home-delivered, hot lunches for the frail, elderly and chronically ill residents in his area around Roanoke, Texas, where he lived with his wife Peggy. Byron Nelson has been an active honorary chairman of that group since 1992.

Some of our local papers in the north Texas area talked about Byron Nelson in their on-line editions for tomorrow. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram quoted Byron Nelson, "I have not ever said that I want to live to this age or that age," he said. "I don't believe in doing that. I'm going to try and maintain myself in a way that I'm up and able to move about and participate in things going on in my life. My heart is good. My cholesterol's good."